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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Troop Installations and Activities

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1. Zwickau. There have been repeated arrivals of Soviet troop units at Zwickau in the period from 28 Dec 53 and 20 Jan 54. The troops appear to come direct from the Soviet Union. The soldiers are mostly young: 18 to 20. The officers and their families are quartered in evacuated houses. The soldiers are quartered mostly in Weissenhausstrasse and in the closed complex of buildings in Stalin Platz and Klara-Zetkinstrasse. Since 25 Dec 53 numerous Soviet transports have been observed arriving loaded with vehicles and infantry guns. One such was observed unloading at 10:30 p.m. on 14 Jan 54. It brought 26 guns of about 70 mm caliber and about 40 six-wheeled trucks.
2. Gera. The former factory buildings in Wiesenstrasse which were occupied by Soviet troops, were evacuated between mid-December 1953 and mid-January 1954. The troops are quartered now in buildings in Franz-Josephstrasse and on the Galgenberg. These appear to be radio units. They were accompanied in their change of quarter by much larger radio equipment, including Diesel generator sets for producing current. Several such sets were mounted on trailers. About 60 Soviet families have arrived in Gera recently and are quartered in Lassenerstrasse.
3. Plauen. Soviet troops are now quartered in the newly restored barracks in Viktor-Kurt-Fischerstrasse. They came from Zeulenroda. The rest of the destroyed buildings are to be rebuilt as soon as the frost is out of the ground. It is probable that they will be made into garages.
4. Oelsnitz. About 250 Soviet soldiers are stationed in the former trade school. Their vehicles are parked in Bachstrasse.
5. Eilenburg. Soviet motorized mortar units with a strength of about 180 men from Eilenburg and Muerzen were observed on 16 Jan 54 engaging in firing practice on Eahlen Heath. They were quartered in Schwanowitz and Sitzendorf. In spite of the cold weather and frozen ground, the soldiers had to dig themselves in.

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